

The SagePage



...from the **Bar Code Experts** for inventory, asset and warehouse managers

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the SageData Solutions Team

The Challenge

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is the Canadian National Police Service organization and an agency of the Solicitor General of Canada. The RCMP is unique in the world since it is a national, federal, provincial and municipal policing body. They provide a total federal policing service to all Canadians and policing services under contract to the three territories, eight provinces, approximately 198 municipalities and 192 First Nations communities.

Within the law enforcement sector it is important to track every firearm and piece of equipment that is used in the field. There is a continuous cycle of the equipment such as firearms, shields, helmets, bulletproof vests and communication equipment coming in and out on an hourly basis 24/7, so it is crucial that the RCMP always have an up-to-date status of every piece of the equipment. The RCMP wanted an automated system where they could reduce the clerical work associated with check-ins and check-outs.

The RCMP wanted a system where they could have immediate access to the current status of an item as well as its history of where it has been, who had it and for how long it was in that officer's possession. As well they wanted to track what each particular officer has been issued within any given period of time.

The Solution

In March 1998, SageData and the RCMP decided to work together to upgrade their current tracking system with BassetPro - the Ultimate BAR CODE Tracking System. With SageData's proven expertise in the development of tracking systems, it was an ideal match.

BassetPro easily and accurately tracks every asset's location, history, owner, maintenance activity, model and serial numbers, which has helped make the RCMP's audit process faster and more accurate. BassetPro has reduced their inventory count and auditing process time significantly. It has also reduced the headaches of performing timely audits and enabling the RCMP to quickly generate reports that they require on a daily basis to make decisions.

Benefits

One of the key components of the BassetPro system is the use of bar codes, which has helped the RCMP in decreasing the time associated with issuing and returning items. It has also saved them time because there is no paperwork involved with issuing an item. BassetPro runs on a PC and a bar code scanner is connected to the PC to scan each item as it is issued and returned. "One of our goals was to eliminate as much paperwork as possible to reduce the clerical work associated with tracking items. We also didn't want to have to enter the information twice. We have been able to obtain those goals with BassetPro," said the Technical Operational Logistics Department.

It is important for RCMP management to have up-to-date information to generate quick and accurate reports to properly plan and budget for the future. As a law enforcement agency it is critical to know the location of every asset, as well as the history of every piece of equipment. "BassetPro is extremely flexible, which allows to us generate various types of reports. It has simplified the process of obtaining critical information, which has allowed us to view accurate, up-to-date reports that we would otherwise not have access to," said the Technical Operational Logistics Department.

SageData News

Fall 2001 BAR CODE Seminar was a SOLD OUT Hit!

The seminar in November was targeted at organizations who are looking at implementing an automated inventory tracking system using handheld computers and bar codes. SageData also welcomed their partners Intermecc Technologies and Psion Teklogix who spoke about the hardware industry as well as an SAP interface package.

SageData would like to take this opportunity to thank all the attendees from the private and public sectors for making this a SOLD OUT seminar.

Psion Teklogix's Release the netpad®

Psion Teklogix, a leader in developing mobile devices for wireless local area networks today announced the launch of netpad® -- a rugged hand-held tablet that introduces a new class of mobile computer to the growing mobile computing market. Combining the largest screen -- 1/2 VGA -- and most rugged design available in a handheld, netpad bridges the gap between lightweight consumer devices and heavy-duty industrial computers.



Netpad's unique large touch screen allows mobile workers to view detailed graphics and data clearly. Dynamic switching between portrait and landscape mode, allows easy access and manipulation of complex documents, schematics and spreadsheets. With an IP 67 rating (the highest of any handheld), no internal drives or moving parts, and the ability to withstand a 1.5 meter drop to concrete, netpad is engineered to perform in the most demanding environments. The rugged hand-held tablet provides more than eight hours of continuous use on a single battery charge, and features instant-on capabilities, making it ideally suited to indoor and outdoor use.

Bar Code User Tip

CCD scanner technology is the most effective means of scanning bar codes with degraded quality. CCD technology has now advanced and can handle the same scanning distance as laser scanners.

Provided by Client Services Department

Bizarre Bar Code - Tracking the life of a cow!

One of the more unique projects SageData got involved in a few years ago was with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), who had a Canada-wide mission to track all beef-cows from birth to meat on your BBQ. How was this done? Well, it started with bar coding all the cows using a plastic ink-jet printed bar code that was stapled onto each cow at birth.

Today, when a farmer wants to sell his beef cattle, they have to be tagged and entered into the national database. The system tracks where the cow was born, raised, auctioned and processed for meat. When the processed meat ends up at your local grocery store, it has a bar code that enables the individual meat to be tracked back to the cow that it came from.

Story provided by SageData Solutions

Please send us your bizarre bar code story to sara@sage.ca. When your bizarre bar code story gets published in the newsletter, we will send you a FREE SageData t-shirt!

About SageData Solutions

SageData Solutions Inc. is one of the world's leaders in software development for bar code, inventory control, asset tracking and warehouse management systems. The company has implemented several hundred custom and standard applications for government and private sector organizations. The company currently focuses on the development of cost effective "off-the-shelf" solutions for local and worldwide export markets, closing the gap between desktop systems and mobile workers.

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